

THE  
URBAN DISTRICT OF  
WIRKSWORTH. *West*

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE  
Medical Officer of  
Health,  
FOR THE YEAR 1913.

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PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE COUNCIL,

J. GRATTON, CLERK.



# ANNUAL REPORT

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of the

Medical Officer of Health,

of the

Urban District of Wirksworth.

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Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Report for the year 1913.

## Natural and Social Conditions of the District.

Elevation from 274 feet to 830 feet O.D.

Area—3020 Acres.

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Census 1891	Population— Census 1901	Census 1911
3725	3807	3888

Estimated to middle of 1913—3906

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### Inhabited Houses—

Census 1901	Census 1911
907	975

Estimated to middle of 1913—981

New Houses erected during the year—0

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Rateable Value	...	...	...	£16,148	15	7
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Full Assesable Value	...	Houses	£11,393	4	0
		Lands ( $\frac{1}{4}$ th)	£1,188	17	10

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£12,582 1 10

General District Rate—2/10 in the £.

Water Rate—6d. in the £ on rateable value of premises supplied for domestic purposes.

Water Charges for trade purposes by regulations dated 1909, and 6d. per 1000 gallons by meter.

Number of Water Meters (trade purposes)—24.

Amount of Poor Law Relief during the year—£415 9 3.



## Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

### Water Supply.

Constant Service from Millstone Grit.

Mains laid in 1882 at a cost of £4,000, Local Government Board Loan, last instalment paid in 1912.

Number of Houses supplied from public service—847.

Springs situated in 12·629 acres of land, the property of the Urban District Council, and free from pollution. Balance owing on cost of the land, £30—last instalment due in 1916.

Number of houses with no supply within 100 yards—0.

Number of houses supplied by surface wells—0.

Number of houses supplied from outside springs under Council control—14.

Supplies liable to pollution—0.

Rainfall, January to May, 5·05 inches above average.

„ June to December, 7·74 inches below average.

Adequacy of Water Supply, January to July—ample; August to December—satisfactory. Water turned off at night in September and October. During the dry time occupiers co-operated by reporting leakages. Waste systematically ascertained by Deacon Meter and reduced to 200 gallons per hour.

### Water Bailiff's Monthly Returns.

1913		Town District.	Bolehill.	Total Galls. per hour.
22nd January	...	19228	738	19966
26th February	...	11824	615	12439
25th March	...	7380	615	7995
22nd April	...	9356	615	9971
20th May	...	8910	615	9525
24th June	...	5412	615	6027
15th July	...	3198	492	3690
26th August	...	2331	492	2823
23rd September	...	1968	615	2583
28th October	...	1968	492	2460
25th November	...	2706	492	3198
23rd December	...	2460	615	3075

### **Rivers and Streams.**

The pollution of the Hannage Brook will cease with the new sewerage and sewage disposal scheme now under construction.

### **Drainage and Sewerage.**

On the 28th of April, a contract was entered into with Messrs. Parker & Sharpe, of York, to lay Main Sewers and construct Outfall Works for the sum of £9,276/11/8, and on the 28th of May a contract was made with Messrs. F. Bird & Co., of Marlbro' Works, Oxford Circus, London, W. to supply the Ironwork for the sum of £647/12/0.

A loan of £11,320 for carrying out the scheme is being obtained from the Public Works Loan Commissioners at 3½ % interest re-payable in 30 years by equal half-yearly instalments of principal and interest, except as to £150 of the loan which is re-payable in 15 years in the same manner.

The actual work commenced at the end of May, 1913, and has proceeded to the Council's satisfaction. On the 23rd of February, 1914, the Engineer reported that about ⅔rds of the work had been executed.

The Outfall Site is situate about a mile south of the Town and has an area of about 2½ acres including half the bed of the Ecclesbourne stream. The scheme includes the whole of the district, except the outlying hamlets of Godfrey Hole, Rise End, The Moor, Breamfield and Longway Bank. The method of disposal will be by settling tanks, percolating filters, and humus tanks, with additional rough filters for dealing with storm water.

### **Closet Accommodation.**

Privy Middens (approximate number)—	666
Pail Closets	„ „ —a few
Water Closets	„ „ —320
Slop Water Closet	„ „ — 2

Number of houses converted from privy middens to water closets—10

Number of defective privies improved—3

Number of houses converted from pail closets to water closets—0

Number of cesspool privies converted—0

The privy middens have been constantly under supervision, and kept in fair order. As the new sewerage system progresses these are being converted into water closets.

### Scavenging.

There is no public scavenging. A number of householders arrange for a weekly removal of ashes and house refuse. Nightsoil is irregularly removed, and then generally under pressure. The use of the Council's horse has lessened delay. Wherever possible, nightsoil and refuse are removed direct into carts and not on to the Streets. When the Sewerage Scheme is completed there will be few privy middens and no cesspools, leaving mainly dry refuse to be dealt with by Public Scavenging when adopted.

Except for the hamlet of Bolehill, all refuse is disposed of within the district at a tip provided by the Council in Brick Kiln Lane, the nearest dwelling-house to which is about 400 yards. No destructor is used in the district. Refuse from Bolehill is carted to a tip rented by the Council in the Bakewell Rural District.

There are no arrangements for dealing with trade refuse.

The Streets are scavenged by the Council's Workmen.

Manure from Stables in the centre of the Town is removed at least once a week by occupiers. There are no Cowsheds in the Town.

## Sanitary Inspection of the District.

### Housing and Town Planning.

Number of houses inspected under Section 17—39

Number unfit for habitation—9 (now uninhabited)

Number repaired—9

Under Consideration—9

	Informal Notices served by Sanitary Inspector.	Legal Notices served by Local Authority.	Nuisances Abated.
<b>Drainage—</b>			
No Disconnection of Waste Pipe...	0	0	0
Defective Traps, Inlets, and Drains	9	—	9
Drains Obstructed ... ..	2	—	2
<b>Closets and Ashpits—</b>			
Insanitary Privies and Ashpits...	3	—	3
Insufficient Closet Accommodation	0	—	0
Conversion of Privies into W.C's.	10	—	10
Defective Water Closets ... ..	2	—	2
Leaky Manure Pit ... ..	1	—	1
<b>Other Defects—</b>			
Surfaces of Courts and Yards ...	0	—	0
Eaves-Spouts and Down-Spouts ...	1	—	1
Urinals Defective ... ..	0	—	0
Water Supply ... ..	0	—	0
Offensive Accumulations ... ..	30	—	30
Animals improperly kept ... ..	0	—	0
Pigsties ... ..	0	—	0
Smoke Nuisances ... ..	0	—	0
Overcrowding ... ..	0	—	0
Foul condition of Houses ... ..	3	—	3
Totals -	61	0	61



	Number on Register	Inspections made	Notices served
Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops ...	32	64	0
Bakehouses ... ..	8	96	0
Slaughterhouses ... ..	5	60	0
Offensive trades ... ..	0	0	0
Common lodging house ... ..	1	12	0
Knacker's Yard ... ..	1	4	0
Totals -	47	236	0
Infected houses disinfected... ..	...	...	21
Samples of water submitted for analysis ...	...	...	0
Bacteriological Examination of Milk ...	...	...	1

## Nuisances in the District requiring consideration.

1. Rag sorting to be scheduled as an offensive trade, and governed by regulations.
2. Provision of a Public Urinal.

## Premises and Occupations controlled by Bye-Laws.

### Lodging House (1).

Regulations adopted 1879. Inspections—12

Kept very clean and in good order by the lessee. Lavatory and Water Closets provided.

### Slaughter Houses (5).

Regulations adopted 1879. Inspections—60

Condition—Very Good. No complaint, offal removed regularly and carefully.

Knacker's Licence—I. No complaint.

### Bakehouses (8).

Regulations *not* adopted. Inspections—96

Well whitewashed and clean. No complaint.

### Offensive Trades (0).

Regulations adopted 1906.

### Cellar Dwellings (0).

### **Public Elementary Schools.**

Sanitary Conditions.—Ventilation and Lighting at the Church of England Mixed School will require attention shortly.

The Council Infants' School was disinfected in consequence of Diphtheria.

School-masters are immediately notified of infectious disease, and the School Authorities notify suspected illness to the Sanitary Authority. In March and April the School Authorities notified 13 cases of Measles in the Mixed Schools and 26 in the Infants.

Medical Inspection of the Elementary Schools is made by Dr. W. L. Thomson, County Assistant Medical Officer, who has kindly sent the following report:—

**MEDICAL INSPECTION.**—63 Entrants, 55 Leavers, and 8 other children were medically inspected during the year. The defects found included the following:—

Verminous conditions 25; Skin Diseases 6; Defective Vision 13; Defective Hearing 3; Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids 13; Heart Affections 3; Phthisis 1; Slight Deformities 2; Epilepsy 1.

On enquiring into the number of parents who have sought medical advice for their children for defects pointed out at medical inspection, it is found that of the 13 cases of bad vision 6 have obtained glasses, 2 others have sought medical advice, 1 has left School and 4 are waiting to see the County Oculist. Of the 13 Tonsil and Adenoid cases 3 have been operated on, 6 have sought medical advice, 2 have left School and 2 have done nothing. Of 6 other cases who required advice, 1 has been remedied, 2 have sought medical advice, 2 have left, and 1 has done nothing.

The Health Visitor visited the Schools on several occasions to examine the children for verminous conditions. At her first visit 17% of the girls were found to be verminous to a varying degree, and at her last visit 12%. There were no cases of Ringworm discovered in the Schools during the year.

In consequence of a small outbreak of Diphtheria in October the throats or noses of 79 children were swabbed and 6 carriers were discovered. The Medical Officer of Health was informed of these and adequate steps were taken by him to safeguard the other children.

W.L.T.

Arrangements might be made with the Health Visitor to notify the existence of verminous conditions to the Sanitary Authority, who, under "The Cleansing of Persons Act," 1897, have power to cleanse the person and his clothing free of cost, and under the "Public Health Act," 1875, Sect. 46, to order the house or part thereof to be cleansed and purified either at the occupiers or the public expense.

### **Employment of Children.**

The "Education Act" of 1876, prohibits employment under 10 years of age. This was extended to 11 by the Act of 1893, and now to 12 by the Act of 1899. Everyone commits an offence who takes into his employment a child under 12. "The Employment of Children's Act," 1903, gives wide powers to a Local Authority to make bye-laws prescribing age and hours of employment and prohibiting, or permitting, subject to conditions, the employment of children in any specified occupation. The population of the Urban District of Wirksworth being under 20,000 "the Local Authority" under the Act is the County Council.



**Food.****MILK SUPPLY—**

Number of Cowkeepers—32

Number of Milk Sellers, not Cowkeepers—0

Cubic space per cow in recently constructed cowsheds—650 cubic feet.

Cows condemned for Tuberculous Udder—I

No action taken under Dairy, Cowsheds and Milkshops Orders, 1885 and 1899.

	No. of Registered	Inspections made	Defects found
Cowhouses ...	32	64	0

The milk is mainly produced within the district. A certain amount is sold in the town from farms just outside the district. Samples are frequently taken by the County Inspector of Foods and Drugs. There was no prosecution during the year.

**Other Foods.**

Premises where food is prepared have been inspected and found clean and in good order. There has been no illness traceable to food bought in the district.

No meat or articles of food have been condemned.

**Housing.**

Number of dwelling-houses inspected under and for the purposes of section 17 of the Act of 1909—39

Number of dwelling-houses which on inspection were considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation—9

Number of dwelling-houses, the defects in which were remedied without the making of closing orders—9

Under consideration at end of year—9

Houses for artisans and labourers—insufficient and poor.

Open spaces about many houses—insufficient.

Cleanliness of surroundings—very fair.

The Sanitary Inspector supervises the erection of New Houses, particularly the foundations and drains.

The following districts have received house to house inspection:—Wash Green, Bowling Green Lane, Cockpit, Bannisters Yard, Millers Green, and parts of Dale and Greenhill.

**Factories and Workshops.****Factories (8).**

Number of Inspections—36

**Workshops (28).**

Number of Inspections—78

Offences under the "Factory and Workshops Act"—1 } All  
Factory Nuisances under the "Public Health Act"—3 } corrected.

**Sanitary Administration of the District.**

District inspected by Sanitary Inspector three times during the year.

Isolation Hospital for acute infectious diseases at Heage. Number of beds—52. (Scarlet Fever—46, Diphtheria and Enteric—6).

Diseases treated concurrently, 4, viz:—Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Enteric Fever, and Small-pox.

Notification of Acute Poliomyelitis, Cerebro-spinal Fever, and Ophthalmia Neonatorum adopted April, 1912.

### List of Adoptive Acts in Force.

- “Infectious Diseases Prevention Act,” 1890.  
 “Public Health Amendment Act,” 1890. Part iii.  
 “Public Health Amendment Act,” 1907. „  
 “Notification of Births Act.” Not adopted.

### Further Sanitary Requirements.

- i. More artizans and labourers houses.
- ii. Public Scavenging.

### Prevalence of and Control over Acute Infectious Diseases.

	Small-Pox	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Enteric Fever	Puerperal Fever	Erysipelas	Total
Number of cases notified ...	—	23	5	—	2	1	31
Do. removed to Hospital	—	19	1	—	—	—	20
Number of cases which ought to have been removed, and could not owing to lack of accommodation	—	0	0	—	—	—	0
Return Cases ... ..	—	0	0	—	—	—	0

An enquiry was held as to the accommodation of the Isolation Hospital with particular reference to delay in admission.

Of the 20 cases removed from Wirksworth

2	were removed	the day of notification.
10	„	the day after notification.
3	„	2 days
1	was	3 „
1	„	6 „
2	were	7 „
1	was	14 „

Taking into consideration that some parents do not readily acquiesce in the removal of their children, and the great demand on the Hospital accommodation during the year, there has been little cause for complaint on the ground of delayed admission.

### Notifiable Diseases.

The following table is compiled from the Local Government Board Report for 1913.

County of Derby	Scarlet Fever		Diphtheria		Enteric Fever		Puerperal Fever		Erysipelas	
	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate
Administra- tive County }	2740	4·81	902	1·58	118	0·21	31	0·05	346	0·61
Aggregate of Boroughs & Urban Districts .. }	1202	4·11	542	1·85	77	0·26	18	0·06	209	0·71
Wirksworth....	23	5·88	5	1·28	0	0	2	0·51	1	0·26



There was no death in the district from any of the above diseases.

Up to the first of September there were six isolated cases of Scarlet Fever, and one of Diphtheria. In September there were thirteen cases of Scarlet Fever in the outlying hamlets of Bolehill and Longway Bank.

The cases of Diphtheria occurred mainly in October, and are connected with the circumstances mentioned in the School Medical Officer's Report. The six "carriers" were not clinical cases and were not notified.

Antitoxin is provided free of charge. The cost in 1913 was 12/11.

Disinfection of premises by the Sanitary Inspector and his assistants, with Formalin Spray, Formalin Vapour Lamps or Sulphur Candles, and Corrosive Sublimate (1 in 1000).

Clothes and bedding stoved at the Isolation Hospital at the expense of the Council, after each infectious illness.

Quarantine of school children enforced, after removal of patient to hospital or the termination of the illness, according to the nature of the illness.

**Bacteriological Examinations made by the County Council  
Bacteriologist.  
1913.**

	Positive	Negative	Total
Diphtheria ... ..	8	15	23
Phthisis ... ..	3	16	19
Enteric Fever ... ..	0	2	2
Other Examinations ... ..	0	0	0
Total -	11	33	44

**Non-Notifiable Diseases.**

Beyond the 39 cases of Measles in March and April, previously referred to there was no outbreak. There was no death from Measles, Influenza, Whooping Cough, or Diarrhœa. There were 2 deaths from Pneumonia, and 1 from Rheumatic Fever. Rheumatic Fever, particularly as evidenced by Endocarditis, is a little too prevalent amongst children, and will account for the somewhat high mortality from Heart Disease in later years. Of the 43 deaths, 9 were certified as due to Heart Disease, giving a rate of 2·3 per 1000 population. In this climate it is essential that all, and particularly children, should wear woollen clothing next the skin, and it cannot be too urgently insisted that flannelette is neither wool nor a desirable substitute for it.

Next to Heart Disease, Cancer claims the highest mortality, with a rate of 1·53 per 1000 population, the average for the previous 10 years being 1·08. From statistics recently published it appears that the Cancer mortality of the County of Derby is amongst the lowest in England, being between ·5 and ·9 per 1000 living, while only in four Counties in England is the Cancer mortality as high as from 1·201 to 1·3 living.

It seems that Cancer is unduly prevalent, and the only explanation to be suggested is that the general health of the district is below the standard, with consequently diminished resisting power in the individual.

The mortality from Respiratory Diseases was at the rate of 1·53 per 1000, as compared with 2·37, the rate for the previous ten years.



**Tuberculosis.**

Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1912.

Notifications received—

Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	5
Other Tuberculosis	... ..	5
Total number of notifications		10

Notifications :—Rate per 1,000 population—

1913	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Other Tuberculosis
Wirksworth ...	1·28	1·28
England and Wales	2·64	1·14

Number of deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis belonging to the district—2.

Death rate per 1000 from Pulmonary Tuberculosis—·51.

Number of deaths from other Tuberculous Diseases—0.

Each home was visited and inspected by the Health Visitor and kept under supervision; the patients were advised and sanitary defects were remedied.

Five Shelters were provided by the County Council.

Of the six cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 2 were treated at Derby and greatly improved. Both cases of Tuberculosis of the Ankle Joint recovered after amputation in the Derby Infirmary. Both cases of Tuberculosis of the Peritoneum were admitted to Institutions and made good recoveries. The one case of Tuberculosis of the Spine was under treatment at the Derby Infirmary at the end of the year.

Arrangements have been made by the Council, with the Registrar, for immediate notification of a death from Tuberculosis, when disinfection of the house is carried out by the Council's Officers.

**Infant Mortality.**

Infant death rate, under one year of age, per 1000 nett births—100.

Of seven deaths under one year, four were certified as due to premature birth.

Mortality of legitimate children per 1000 legitimate births—79·4.

„ illegitimate „ „ illegitimate births—285·71.

**Vital Statistics.**

The birth rate for the year was 17·92 per 1000 population, which is 5·39 per 1000 below the average of the previous ten years.

The nett death rate was 11·52 per 1000, being 3·36 per 1000 below the average of the previous ten years.

There were 70 births (34 males, 36 females) of which 7 were illegitimate, and 45 deaths (25 males, 20 females) of which 6 were persons over 70, 5 over 80, and 1 over 90 years of age.

The low birth rate and the high infant mortality are connected with, and arise from practices it seems impossible to check.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. E. BROSTER.

WIRKSWORTH.—31st March, 1914.

# Vital Statistics 1913.



BIRTH AND DEATH RATES PER 1,000 POPULATION.

	Birth Rate	General Death Rate	Diphtheria	Enteric Fever	Diarrhœa	Phthisis	Other Tubercular Diseases	Cancer	Respiratory Diseases	Infant Death Rate per 1,000 Births
1913	17.92	11.52	0	0	0	.51	0	1.53	1.53	100
Average previous 10 years.	22.31	14.88	.17	.02	.16	.65	.36	1.08	2.37	103.2

## Rainfall at Wirksworth, 1913.

Month	Total fall. Inches	Days on which rain fell	Greatest fall in one day	Average fall in 18 years, 1895-1912	Difference of 1913 from average
January	5'49	23	1'57	3'05	2'44 above
February	1'35	15	'40	2'51	1'16 below
March	5'00	24	'74	2'77	2'23 above
April	3'69	18	'80	2'20	1'49 above
May	2'24	14	'55	2'19	'05 above
June	1'28	10	'62	2'45	1'17 below
July	'92	7	'57	2'63	1'71 below
August	1'74	10	'79	3'55	1'81 below
September	1'38	11	'34	2'21	'83 below
October	4'03	14	1'20	3'55	'48 above
November	3'00	17	'53	3'11	'11 below
December	1'36	8	'47	3'95	2'59 below
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TOTALS	31'48	171		34'17	2'69 below

The Rain guage is situated at "Green Gates," Coldwell Street.  
 Altitude 495 above sea level. Height of mouth of guage above ground,  
 1 foot.

THOMAS GIBBS.